

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The process of adjusting the sensitivity of a signal sensor which has a quiescent state and an operating state, comprising the steps of monitoring an  
5 operating signal for a valid signal as contrasted to ambient noise, reducing the sensitivity of said signal sensor in the absence of a valid operating signal so that said signal sensor is less responsive to ambient noise, and increasing the sensitivity of said signal sensor in  
10 the continuing presence of a valid signal and thereafter reducing the sensitivity of said signal sensor if a valid signal disappears for a predetermined length of time.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said valid signal comprises a sequence of a predetermined number of high start bits followed by a predetermined number of data bits.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein each of said bits is sampled a predetermined number of times and wherein when said signal is first received, said samples for each bit must all agree as to the state of said bit  
5 to switch said circuit from a quiescent state to said operating state and wherein fewer than all samples of succeeding bits must agree during operation in said operating state.

4. The process of claim 2 wherein said circuit operates with 4 of 4 voting in said quiescent state and with 3 of 4 voting in said operating state.